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CIA-RDP81-00706R000100220004-3

SECRET

417147

MEMORANDUM FOR: Assistant Director, CO
Assistant Director, CSO
Assistant Director, CSI
Assistant Director, OPC
Assistant Director, OCD

FROM : Assistant Director, OGD

SUBJECT : Standardization of Place-names

REFERENCE : [redacted] 50X1

ANNEX : List of Approved Place-names in China

TAB : Remarks Sheet

1. Paragraph 2 of reference directs that [redacted] 50X1
[redacted] However, in implementing this directive 50X1
a confusing lack of uniformity in spelling of place-names has grown within CIA. Some CIA units use coll-names, conventional names for cities which other units identify and record through the literal Wade-Giles spelling of Chinese names. Thus, Chefoo in one CIA dap or report may appear as Yen-t'ai or as both in another report.

2. Pertinent to resolution of this problem is the fact that it is now the practice in CIA production of NIS chapters to use the conventional place-names - rather than the literal Wade-Giles - in all instances where a conventional place-name has been approved by the US Board on Geographic Names.

3. AD/OGE therefore proposes to recommend to the Executive, in implementation of reference, that:

a. CIA personnel use conventional place-names rather than the literal Wade-Giles spelling of Chinese names in all instances where a conventional place-name has been approved by the US Board on Geographic Names.

b. Otherwise, CIA personnel use the literal Wade-Giles spelling of Chinese names.

4. The Annex hereto, prepared on request of OGD Map Division, by the Staff of the US Board on Geographic Names lists the Board's currently approved conventional China place-names. AD/OGE proposes to include in his recommendation to the Executive this list of approved conventional place-names for distribution throughout CIA as a guide for implementing the proposal made in paragraph 3 a above.

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5. Information on conventional China place-names that are approved subsequent to issuance of this list may be obtained by phoning Code 181, extensions 734 or 736 (Inquiries Desk, US Board of Geographic Names).

6. Will you please return the "Remarks Sheet" furnished herewith indicating either concurrence in the proposed recommendation of AD/ORE or non-concurrence with reasons therefor.

/s/

THEODORE BABBITT

Attachments: Two (2) — none kept in O/S
Tab - Remarks Sheet
Annex - List of approved conventional place-names in China.
(Document will be reproduced if proposal is adopted.)

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TAB

REFERENCE: Memorandum from AD/ORE to AD's, OO, OSO, OSI, OPC, and OCD, Subject: Standardization of Place-names, dated 3 February 1950.

CONCURRENCES:

REMARKS:

50X1

/s/ [redacted] 9 Feb 50 (after Mr. Reynolds, FBD, reviewed this page & agreed)
Assistant Director, OO

Assistant Director, OSO

Assistant Director, OSI

Assistant Director, OPC

Assistant Director, OCD

OO, OSI - att sent to
OSO - 9 Feb 50
a. D
2 copies sent to FBID
14 Feb 50, for info, action
& file
a.c.D.

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(SENDER WILL CIRCLE CLASSIFICATION TOP AND BOTTOM)

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
OFFICIAL ROUTING SLIP

TO		INITIALS	DATE
1	ADO		
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FROM		INITIALS	DATE
1	CHIEF, FBID		17 Feb.
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50X1

☐ APPROVAL ☒ INFORMATION ☐ SIGNATURE

☐ ACTION ☐ DIRECT REPLY ☐ RETURN

☐ COMMENT ☐ PREPARATION OF REPLY ☐ DISPATCH

☐ CONCURRENCE ☐ RECOMMENDATION ☐ FILE

REMARKS:

1. FBID can conform to the standardization procedure outlined only to the extent that our sources conform. I do not believe we should use Yen-t'ai if broadcast says Chefee. Mere transliteration variations we can eliminate in case of Chinese voice only and in some cases it would seem inadvisable to do that if we thereby become in-

(over)

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consistent with ourselves. It is also impossible to use diacritical marks, including apostrophes.

2. We cannot comment in detail without the Annex, which is unavailable to FBID.

3. At some point I believe it should be made clear that these rules should not apply with strictness to FBID material. Our job is to report the broadcast as heard.

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